Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) Jaggery came under Government Control on 1st Thulam 1118 (17th October 1942). The control then was only with regard to exports. On 30th Makaram 1119.(12th February 1944) the Gur Control Order on the lines of the Government of India Order was promulgated. This Order conferred wider powers on the Director of Food Supplies, and under it he has, from time to time, issued notifications controlling the price of jaggery. A notification restricting import of jaggery was published in the Gazette, dated 12th Thulam 1120 (28th October 1944).

(*b*) Government had not ascertained the stock that the merchants had with them. There was no need to do so, for Cochin is a deficit area in jaggery, and, when the Madras Province and Travancore restricted exports, Cochin too had to adopt control measures, in order to conserve the little stock it had and to ensure an equitable distribution to the consumers.

Government have not stopped the sale of jaggery by merchants. But, in August 1944, they were forced to restrict imports. The circumstances which led them to do so were as follows.— For the year 1944, Cochin had been allowed a quota of 7,000 tons of jaggery from Madras. The purchase and distribution of this quantity were strictly under Government Control. In August 1944, the Madras Government without consulting this Government suddenly changed their system of exports, and began to issue export permits to private merchants. Import of large quantities of jaggery then by private merchants would have completely upset the control schemes of Government. The Director of Food Supplies, therefore issued an Order on 29th August 1944 freezing the stocks that private merchants were importing a few weeks later, a notification restricting import of jaggery was issued by Government. This notification was published in the Gazette dated 12th Thulam 1120 (28th October 1944).

(*c*) Please see answers to (*a*) and (*b*).

(*d*) Government have no information on the point.

NETTUR-PANANGAD ROAD

256. Mr. P. Narayana Menon *(Trippunittura)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the progress made in the construction of Nettur Panangad road in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk.

(*b*) has the Government any idea of metalling the road;

(*c*) when will the work be completed ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: (*a*) The work has been almost completed.

(*b*) The present estimate is only for forming an earthen road.

(*c*) Please see answer to (*a*)

KALLETTUMKARA—THAZHEKAT ROAD

257. Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the construction of the road from Kallettumkara to Thazhakat Village?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The land acquisition papers of the sites required for opening this road are under preparation.

Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda)* Will the work be finished before the next session?

Mr. V. K.Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In Meenam? No.

Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* The land acquisition at least?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is possible that it may be completed.

FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT—AUDIT OF

258. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state whether the audit of the accounts of the Food Supply Department is completed; if not how far it has progressed; will a copy of the audited account and their report be placed on the table?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Yes, for 1118. A copy of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounts is placed on the table.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* The balance sheet was placed on the table only just now. So I had no time to study the whole thing.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* It was published in the Gazette also.

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